Now or Never

OR, A

PROJECT

UNDER GOD,

To Secure the CHURCH [and
MONARCHY] of *England*,

IN A

Congratulatory Letter

To the Right Honourable

Lord D——,

Upon his late PROMOTION.

——*Antiquam exquirite matrem.* Virg.

Who knoweth whether they are come to the Kingdom for such a time as this. Esther 4. 14.

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the Old Paths, where is the Good Way, and walk therein, and ye shall find Rest for your Souls. Jer. 6. 16.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author had let this *Letter* ſeen the Light ſome time ago; but for Weighty Reaſons he delayed its Publication. He's in hopes 'twill do ſome Good: For be aſſured that he's a hearty Well-wiſher both to Church and State.

MY LORD,

WHEN I reflect on the Promotion of your Lordship to that Post of Honour; I find a sensible Satisfaction in my self; it being a happy *Præludium* to a further Change in the Ministry. That such Men of Honour are admitted to Her Majesty's Favour and Councils, fills not only me, but all honest Men, with Extasies of Joy: And I hope the time is come, that our most Excellent Church is once more rising, and will become the *Joy of all the Corners of the Land.* The poor Church of *England* has been in a Storm for some Years: But, God be thank'd, she rode it out by means of the *Anchora Spei.* The Cloud breaks, the Sun shines; and we hope there is reason that all Fears and Jealousies should be banish'd for ever. *Post nubila Phœbus.*

The late Celebrated Tryal of a Reverend and Learned Divine of the Church of *England*, has, God be thanked, opened the Eyes of the Nation, who had for some Years been hoodwinkt by the false and intriguing Designs of *Antimonarchical*, *Enthusiastical* and *Atheistical* Setts of Men. What was their Aim, is as plain, as if wrote with a Sun-beam. Worldly Interest, and this World's Grandeur is their *Summum Bonum.* They never look beyond the Grave----- They have been Battering the *Church* and *Monarchy* on all sides; but, God be thanked, their Attacks have been fruitless: for the *Church* is founded upon a Rock; and the Interests of both *Church* and *Monarchy* are so twisted, that, like *Hippocrates*'s Twins, they live and die together. This is apparent from the Grand Rebellion of *Forty One*, when *Both*, for our Sins, were laid in the Dust; but, *Phenix*-like, they arose by the Providence of God, from their own Ashes: and, we trust in God, by the Assistance of the same good Providence, they will continue till time shall be no more.

In order to so good an End, it will be useful to apply some necessary Natural Means to support *Both*: And the best Expedient that I know of, is to suppress all Rebellious and Scandalous Pamphleteers; such as the *Reviews*, *Observators*, *Flying-Post*, with the rest of the profligate Gang of Scriblers. 'Tis a

good Obſervation of the Great *Clarendon*, that the Pamphlets of thoſe times were the Forerunners of the Troubles of *Forty One*. The Pulpits and the Preſs were the Trumpeters of that Horrid Rebellion: And what has been may be; and 'tis time to *ſcatter them that delight in War*; 'tis high time to regulate the Preſs, and to ſtop the Mouths of thoſe that Talk and Write againſt our *Sion*. The time is come that we muſt repair our Breaches, and build up the Walls of our *Jeruſalem*. The Scales are taken off from the Eyes of a poor deluded people; and they now ſee their Danger; they were juſt at the *Præcipice* of Ruin, and God did deliver, and we hope, will always deliver them from the Jaws of Death. The Enemies of God, the Church, the Queen and Monarchy are at laſt confounded, and they are caught in their own Net, and the Pit which they digged for others, they are fallen into. Thanks be to God. Their Deſigns were cloſe laid; their Projects ſecurely calculated, and their Plots cunningly concerted: And when, upon the point of Execution, as ſoon blaſted by the merciful Power of
Pſ. 124. 5, 6, 7. God. *Praiſed be the Lord, which hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth: Our ſoul is eſcaped, even as a bird out of the ſnare of the Fowler; the ſnare is broken, and we are delivered. Our help ſtandeth in the name of the Lord which hath made heaven and earth.*

And when this Sett of never-failing Plotters are at work again, let us put up our Petitions to the ſame good God, who has preſerved us, in the Words of the ſame Royal Prophet; *Keep us from the ſnares which they have laid for us, and from the*
Pſ. 141. 10, 11. *trapps of wicked doers. Let the ungodly,* (thô they ſtile themſelves the Elect, and Saints of this World) *fall into their own nets together, and let* us *ever eſcape them.*

2*dly*, Another Expedient to ſecure our Church and Conſtitution from theſe Invaders of Liberty and Property, is to diſarm thoſe Men, and to fill their Places with Men of ſtaunch and ſound principles. Not that I would be thought to dictate to my Superiours; but with humble Submiſſion, I preſume to offer up my Mite of Advice. *Solomon* tells us of a poor Man that ſaved a City. To prevent Miſchief to Church and State,

tis

tis highly neceſſary to change the Officers of the Navy, Army, Garriſons, and the Lieutenancy, and to put them into ſafer Hands; and let ſuch as have orthodox principles, be the Men that ſhall Rule over us. But, my Lord, I dare not go on, leſt it ſhould be conſtrued *Preſumption*; but ſhall leave that Province to be managed by ſuch as your Lordſhip is; and we hope in due time to reap the Fruit of your Labours. Go on, Sir, in the Name of God, and proſper.

3*dly*, Another Expedient to ſecure the Members of our Church, is to have a new Houſe of Commons. But I dare not dictate: But Charity to my Fellow-Members of the ſame Church, forces me (though in danger) to be their Advocate. The whole Nation rings of the Loyal Addreſſes; and there are ſo many Bold and Brave Strokes in many of them, that Ruin all Rebellious Tenets; that the *Promoters* of thoſe Addreſſes (in my ſingle Opinion) are not, cannot be ſafe, if this *H.* of C----s be ſuffered to ſit again. They were before for Roaſting the Honeſt Clergy; and now they will be as forward to puniſh the Honeſt Laity, which, I hope will be prevented.

4*thly*, Another Expedient to ſecure our Church and State, is, upon the Suppoſition of a New H— of C—s to review the Act of Toleration, as 'tis Vulgarly called, or elſe to bring another Bill againſt the infamous Practice of Occaſional Conformity: Both a Review of the former Act; and another new one, is of abſolute Neceſſity for the ſafety of the Church and State. Not that I am for the total Aboliſhing of the Act of Exemption for Conſciences truly Scrupulous, and tender: But I am abſolutely againſt Knaves, making Advantages of it, and protecting themſelves under the Branches of it. For how odd does it look that Men of no Conſcience, ſhould plead Conſcience; and that Men of no Religion, ſhould take Sanctuary under that Act, that was never deſigned for them. In that Act there is no Exemption of Atheiſts, Deiſts, Socinians, and Diſſenters, that have no ſcrupulous and tender Conſciences. All theſe Men upon occaſion, can run to the Altar for a Place or Promotion; and yet, like a Dog to his Vomit, or a Sow that walloweth in Mire, can return to their Meetings and Cit-cat-

Clubs

clubs. These Men play with Sacraments, and dally with Damnation; which I think with submission, the Government ought to prevent; and that may be done by bringing in a new Bill against Occasional Conformity, which is a Sin of Aniquity, and ought to be laid aside. The first Occasional Conformist was Satan, as we read in the first of *Job*; the next that we meet with was *Judas*; and since the Revolution their Number is vastly increased; and 'tis high time to put a stop to that growing Mischief, a prevention of which must be left to our Wise Legislators.

5*thly*, Another Expedient to secure our Church especially, and consequently the Monarchy, is for our wise Councellours to advise her Majesty to fill the Bishopricks, and other Dignities belonging to the Crown, with Stanch, Sound, and Orthodox Clergy. By this time we may see (for our Eyes are open, thanks to a Reverend Doctor for his Courage, and Bravery in stemming a Tide, that was ready to overturn both Church and Monarchy; let his Memory be precious to all Ages) what false steps for some Years have been made, by promoting Men of ill Principles in the several Stations of the Church; that seven B----s should be against the Church is strange, and will seem more so in future Ages: But 'tis hop'd that they and such as they, will come to their Senses, and see their Faults, before it be too late, and stand by the Church, their Mother. God send —— There's a Secret; that the World will know in a little time; 'tis a Charm or somewhat worse; That Men should be stanch Doctors, and ill B——s; No Near, says the Marriner, lest we run the Vessel on Shelves and Quick-sands; for the time won't bear that Church-Men should speak plain Sense; tho' *Reviews* and *Observators* may, and that without punishment. But, my Lord, I hope their Reign is not long, considering your Lordship's Post. Give me leave, my Lord, to quote one passage of the Pillory'd Scribler. 'But after all, their Eyes will be open'd, and 'I may freely tell you, all the Peoples Eyes do already begin 'to be opened; they begin to see Jacobitism riding upon them a 'Gallop, bestriding the Beast call'd *Non-Resistance*; and the Pre-

See Rev. Tues. July, 18.

'tender

'tender coming to Invade us, before the Wind---blows apace 'to our Shoar by a ſtrong Gale of Nothern Wind, called *Here-* '*ditary Right*---Depend upon it, the Nation begins to ſee---Here your Lordſhip may ſee Impudence in the Abſtract, and riding in Triumph. What bold Names he calls the Doctrine of our Bleſſed Lord, *the Beaſt*, and how baſely he flurts at Hereditary Right — This Inſolence ought to be corrected. And then he ſays, Depend on't, the Nation begins to ſee. Yes Mr. *Deſoe*, 'tis true indeed, the Nation begins to ſee; but 'twas the Doctor that Coucht the People, or took off the Scales from the Eyes of a deluded People, who now ſee your Cheats, Lyes, Calumnies; and believe me they are not, they will not be cheated by ſuch * Monſters of Men, again. The Ball is their own; and they'l keep it; and they have no occaſion for your true Proteſtant Spectacles. Would to God, you would uſe them, and you may ſee your own Villanies and Rogueries with a long, &c. And now I ſhall leave ſuch Inſects to be ſqueezed by Authority; I would not have him puniſhed Allegorically (a Word he is mightily pleaſed with) but *in propria perſona*, as he juſtly deſerves.

An Addreſs to Deſoe.

* *See the ſame Review.*

6thly, Another Expedient to ſecure the Church and State, is to teſt our Diſſenting Brethren; and ſince they can ſwallow the Sacramental Teſt, it would be worth the while to prove them with another; and indeed it is only to turn the Tables upon them: for had their deſigns in the laſt Houſe of Commons gone on glibly, all Church-men ſhould have been obliged to deny, abhor, abjure the Doctrines of Paſſive Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance; but they have loſt the Day. Let us try their Courage; and as we ſay, what is Sawce for the Gooſe, is Sawce for the Gander; and ſince they were ſo free with their Teſts, 'tis very agreeable to Reaſon, and Senſe, that they ſhould have one; which may be, that all ſorts of Perſons in Government ſhould have been obliged upon pain of ----- to Subſcribe to the Doctrine of Reſiſting Princes, as a Damnable, and Popiſh Tenet, contrary to the *Law* of the Land, and Law of God; and that all Diſſenting Preachers, Teachers, and all Quakers ſhould be obliged upon a Penalty of ----- to obſerve, the 5th of *November* and the 30th of *January* Annually, and on each of thoſe Days, according to the Cuſtom of the Eſtabliſh'd Church, to Read a Homily againſt Rebellion, ----- and that every Meeting-Houſe not open on thoſe Days, ſhall be ſhut up for ever after, and the Teacher and Preacher, made incapable of any Benefit from the Act of Exemption. This is the Project of the Excellent Author

of

See Moderator 17.

of the Moderator, and with him I fully agree. This would [illegible] down the Doctrine of Resistance for ever, and sink it into [illegible] tomless Pit, from whence it came; this alone would [illegible] Church, and its Doctrines from the Rage and Fury of those [illegible] lent Vermin, that are always for Root and Branch-work [illegible] Church and Monarchy.

I shall not, my Lord, at present add any more Expedients, [illegible] shall only observe to your Lordship, that the Dissenters from [illegible] Established Church have far greater, and more Eminent Privi[illegible]ges, than any Dissenters from any Church in the whole World; [illegible] shall take a short Surview, and then put an End to your Lordship's [illegible] trouble.

Let me first cast my Eye upon the Reform'd of *France*; they [illegible] so far from having Places and Posts in the Government, as [illegible] Dissenters at present have, that they are not allowed to Worship [illegible] God according to their own Way. The Gallies, Prisons, and [illegible] veral sorts of Punishments are their cruel Lot and Portion; and [illegible] were our Dissenters thus managed, they would have Reason to [illegible] cry out. But the Government has excepted them from certain Penalties of former Acts; yet this cannot excuse that heinous Sin of Schism. Let them look to that -----

See the Dutch way of Toleration Printed, 1699.

2*dly*, Let us look on the Wise, and Charitable States of *Holland*, who are so free in giving advice to Crowned Heads. Tho' they give Toleration to all Sects, and Factions, yet they are so politick, as to admit none into places of Honour and Profit, but those of *Calvin's* Platform; That wise Commonwealth ought to be to us a President; and I think we should do well, as to Copy from them. But this I must leave to our Superiors.

The Churches of *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*, give no manner of Toleration to Dissenters; Nay, the *Lutheran* Churches of *Denmark* and *Sweden*, are as stiff in this point, as they; nay, more than that. The Presbyterians of *North-Britain*, are over cruel to the Episcopal Clergy, and Laity; *But, Lord, how long.* -----

Thus have I presumed to lay before your Lordship my Thoughts of securing the Church and Monarchy of our Nation. I have only given hints, which I hope some abler Pen will expatiate on. I shall end all with my Prayers to God to defend and protect our most pure Church, the Church of *England*, to bless her Majesty with Wise, Learned, and Pious Counsellors, such as your Lordship is; and that God would Counsel her Councellors and teach her Senators Wisdom; and so end all with the Words of the County of *Gloucester's* Address. *Long may her Majesty live and Reign over us, as a Nursing-Mother of our Spotless Religion, the Delight and Darling of a happy People, and the Horror and Scourge of Ambitious Tyrants. May her Majesty late, very late, Exchange these Temporal Crowns for an Immortal one, and our distant Posterity enjoy the Benefits, and bless the Memory of her Majesty's Piety and Conduct.* I am

See the Address.

Your Lordships humble Servant

J. S.